

1750

THE  
LIFE  
AND  
CHARACTER  
OF THE  
*Late Lord Chancellor JEFFERYS.*

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THE  
LIFE  
A N D  
CHARACTER  
OR THE  
Late Lord Chancellor  
JEFFERYS.

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*Castigatq; auditq; dolos, subigitq; fateri,  
Fixit leges, pretio atq; refixit.*

*Non, mihi si linguae centum sint, oraq; centum  
Ferrea Vox, Omnes scelerum comprehendere formas;  
Omnia panarum percurrere nomina possim.*

*Discite Justitiam moniti* ————— *Virg.*

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*The SECOND EDITION.*

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*L O N D O N :*

Printed and Sold by R. KING, at the *Feathers*  
in St. Paul's Church-Yard. MDCXXV.

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INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION



THINK I need make no Apology for publishing to the World the following Memoirs. The Lives of Men in eminent Stations, whether remarkable for any extraordinary Acts, either of Virtue or of Vice, if they do not carry in them Lessons of Instructions, do yet at least afford Matter of Entertainment and Diversion to the Reader.

As soon therefore as the following Piece fell into my Hands, I

do

was

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was not long a considering what was most proper to be done with it ; but taking it for granted that it would be as agreeable an Entertainment to the Publick, as it had been to me, I resolved, if possible, to have it printed immediately.

THE Gentleman who wrote it, was then a Practicer at the Bar ; but being a Man of Fortune, he soon after declined Business and retired into the Country, where he lived to a good old Age, in great Reputation and Credit. He died about two Years since, leaving his Papers to the Care of a Lady his Executrix, who after she had taken from among them whatever she thought did materially concern her, and had seen several others that she knew not what to make of,

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of, sent them to me, desiring I would peruse them, and give her an Account of them.

To oblige the Lady, I undertook the Task, and among the first I met with, was this Work, just in the Manner it is now published: My Curiosity led me to dip into it, and the Entertainment it gave me, obliged me to read it through, before I could lay it down; and then without proceeding further in the Business I was engaged in, I went directly to the Lady, and requested her to give me Leave to communicate it to the Publick, which she very readily and chearfully granted me. By the Account our Author here gives, he seems to have been a curious and an exact Observer of the Chancellor's publick

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lick him Behaviour of throughout His whole Administration, and seems likewise to have had a just Sense of, as well as a becoming Indignation against, that malevolent Spirit that governed him in all his Actions.

IF in this Account should be found any material Circumstances not mentioned by our common Historians, it will not much be wondered at, when it is considered that our Author was perfectly well acquainted with all the Chancellor's Proceedings, and an Eye-Witness of most of the Facts he relates; whereas our Historians generally write at a Distance, and are very rarely let into so many Particulars, or into the Spring or Source of Things.

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## INTRODUCTION.

THERE is indeed a very wide Difference between some Part of the Account here given of Chancellor *Jefferys*, and many other Accounts that we meet with concerning him: Some of these, after admitting him to have been Guilty of all the Vices that are here enumerated, do yet insist that he was nevertheless a good Chancellor, and as a Proof of it they alledge, that none of his Decrees were ever reversed, and but very few of them appealed against; and they particularly mention the Decree made by him, in Favour of his Son against the Earl of *Pembroke*; against which, when an Appeal was brought soon after the Revolution, and every Thing was heard greedily that tended to impeach the Chancellor's Integrity; yet the

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Decree

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Decree stood its Ground, notwithstanding the powerful Interest of that noble Family against it.

As for this particular Case, it can be to no Purpose to produce it as an Instance of the Chancellor's Integrity, because, for ought appears to the contrary, the Decree was founded upon just and equitable Principles: Nay, it is a manifest Proof that this Decree was just and equitable, because the House of Lords did not think fit to reverse it; no Wonder therefore, that a just Decree, tho' made in Favour of a Son, should remain inviolable. To break thro' such a Decree would have been the Height of Injustice.

BESIDES, if the Fact was true, that none of his Decrees were ever

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ever reversed, and but few of them appealed against, which I am not certain of; yet that would be no convincing Evidence of his being a good Chancellor, for the bringing of Appeals was not a Thing very usual in those Days: They were then seldom brought but in Causes of the highest Consequence. The Sitting of our Parliaments was at that Time very uncertain; but since we have had a regular Session every Winter, Appeals have been more frequent, and Time and Experience have reduced the bringing them under much better and easier Regulations.

BUT farther, if the Bringing of Appeals against a Lord Chancellor's Decrees, was to be allowed of as a Proof of the Goodness or Badness

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ness of the Chancellor who pronounced them, then those great Men who are allowed to have been our very best Chancellors, and have been always so esteemed, would be proved to be the very worst; for never was there known to have been so many Appeals brought as of late Years, and yet never had we greater or better Lord Chancellors.

UPON the Whole, I entirely agree with our common Historians, that the Lord Chancellor Jefferys was a very ill Man: But I must beg Leave to differ from them when they call him a good Chancellor; for amongst all the Accounts that I have been able to gather concerning him, I have seen nothing that could induce me to be-

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believe him to be so: But I think our Author has plainly proved him to be otherwise, and therefore I am ready to subscribe to his Opinion, that *Jefferys* was not only a very ill Man, but that he was a very ill Chancellor also.

THE Reader, when he considers what a disagreeable Figure the Lord *Jefferys* makes in this little Piece, and views the present Earl of *Macclesfield* in that beautiful Light he now appears, will readily concur with me, that a very amiable kind of Contrast might be drawn between them.

THE one we find abounding with Pride, Positiveness and Ill-Nature; while in the other we see nothing but Civility, Courtesy and

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a general Benevolence towards Mankind. The Former we find to have been a Slave to Avarice and Cruelty : But in the Latter we admire a Soul of Steadiness, of Tenderness and Compassion, and unbounded Generosity. This great Man, we know to be a Master in all the polite Arts and Sciences, to be an universal Scholar himself, and to be a Patron and Encourager of all Sorts of Learning, and of all Learned Men ; while the other we find to have been only a vain and empty Pretender to these fine Qualities. We glory in the late Lord Chancellor as a firm Friend, and a steady adherer to the established Religion of our Country ; but Chancellor Jefferys would rather have been a Friend to any Religion, than to that which

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which he professed. This Man's Administration was one continued Series of foul Partiality and Corruption: But my late Lord Chancellor's Prudence, Integrity and Impartiality, make him at once the Wonder and Delight of the Age. The very Name of Jefferys became one of those Grievances that lost King JAMES the Hearts of his People; while the Name and Conduct of the Earl of Macclesfield give much Lustre, and are an Addition to the many Blessings that have accrued to us by the late happy Revolution. In Jefferys we see what an ill Man was, in Lord Macclesfield we see what a good Man is. The Former therefore, as he well deserved, was in every Stage of Life despised, treated with Scorn and Ignominy, and universally

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sally hated ; while as the Reward due to the Latter's extraordinary Qualities, we see him as universally esteemed, respected, and affectionately beloved.

I have detained the Reader too long from the Perusal of the Work I have been recommending, but as the great Worth of the Earl of *Macclesfield* drew me to exceed the Limits of an Introduction to so small a Tract, I am sure every honest *Englishman* will excuse me, when he reflects that I have been offering my Tribute to the Merit of so distinguished a Patriot.

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was distributed in the following  
order **L I F E**  
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## CHARACTER

and **OF THE**  
*Late Lord Chancellor JEFFREYS.*



HE late Lord Chancellor Jeffreys was born in *Wales*, and descended from an obscure Branch of a Gentleman's Family in *Denbighshire*: His Education was homely, such as the Country Schools could give him; and from thence, with the Addition of very little, if any,

any academical Learning, he was, at his Grandmother's Desire, sent to study the municipal Laws of the Kingdom in the Inner-Temple.

HIS Father, partly out of the Covetousness of his Temper, but more out of the Narrowness of his Fortune, was hardly prevailed upon to contribute any Thing towards the Expence ; and his Grandmother, tho' she did her utmost, was by no means able to allow him such an Income, as the Dignity of his Profession, and the Company he was to keep, required ; so that he no sooner found himself out in the World, than he found himself put to his Shifts for a Subsistence in it, suitable to his Station.

HIS Parts were too quick, and he was in his Nature too volatile and airy, to acquire to himself by much Reading, the Character of a profound Lawyer. It better suited his Temper to spend his vacant Hours among the Ladies, and the gay World, and to content himself with such Instructions in Law, as the Proceedings

ceedings of the several Courts, and the Conversation of the Men of Learning in the Profession, naturally gave him.

HIS first Appearance abroad was about the Time of the Restoration, and tho the Current of the Nation then ran strong towards the King's Side, yet there was at that Time in the Kingdom, a vast many Malecontents, who took no small Pains, and used uncommon Diligence to encourage their Friends, to enlarge their Interest, and to support their Cause.

WITH some of these *Jeffery's* happened to contract an Acquaintance, and by their Help he ingratiated himself with the Chief of the whole Party, who soon discover'd him to have a pushing and forward Genius, and, consequently, to be a fit Instrument to serve their Purposes.

HE on his Part likewise soon perceived, not only their Fondness of him, but the great Advantage of their Patronage; for he had now no Reason to complain of the Scantiness of his Allowance. His

Difficulties in Point of Fortune were no more ; he found himself protected, encouraged, and cherished by them ; and his Zeal and Gratitude prompted him to run the greatest Lengths in their Service.

His Zeal carried him to such a Pitch, that in his Hours of Jovialty, he would be continually promoting all the treasonable and male-contented Healths that were then fashionable ; and he himself would always drink them upon his Knees to set the Example. In short, he was become their Champion, and was ever ready to talk, to write, nay even sometimes, if he was well backed, to fight for them, as Opportunity offered, or Occasion required.

AND as he was thus zealous for them, so were they, in return, no less zealous for him. He was by this time called to the Bar, and therefore now they thought it not enough barely to support him ; they looked upon him as a Person capable of making a Figure in Life, and they rightly judged, that of all Professions, he was in the best wherein a forward and bold

bold Man might distinguish himself : They therefore resolved to unite all their Friends, and all their Interest, to give him an Opportunity to exert himself.

*Ingenium Velox, audacia perdita, sermo,  
Promptus, & Iaco torrentior---*

So strong a Confederacy in Favour of a Man so qualified, could not fail to answer the Purpose intended : He soon got to be a Man of Consideration in Business, and was constantly employed in all Causes wherein Party had any Concern.

THERE was no Man living had a better Foresight, or could judge better of Things relating to his own Interest, than Jefferys : And as he was at this Time at the Head of his Party, and in the Bottom of all their Secrets, he well knew their Strength and Power.

HE visibly saw, that notwithstanding all the Efforts of his Friends, the Court Party daily gained Ground, and were perpetually contriving some new Projects entirely

entirely to crush their Adversaries : He therefore wisely considered, that tho' his Party had done all they could for him, yet that he might possibly be able to do still somewhat more for himself.

No Man had more Ambition, or regarded less what Methods he made use of to serve his Purpose, than he : He had seen the utmost that his Friends could do for him, there were no Preferments to be had on their Side ; and tho' he saw Men of the Court Side, who had Qualifications much superior to his, yet he well knew that he had one grand one, which they had not.

----- *Humanis quæ sit fiducia rebus !*

HE had the Secrets of his Party in his Power, and so had good Reason to believe, that revealing them to the Court would make him a welcome Guest there, if he could but convince them that he was sincere, and in earnest, in the Discovery he should make. He was, however, sure that his Reputation in Business was so established,

blished, that he should need no Support, and therefore he determined with himself, to make the Experiment.

He changed Sides all at once, without any Ceremony, and with very little Decency; and he judged very rightly of the Change he made: But he was not a little indebted to the Impetuousity of his Nature for the Credit he gained, and the Success he met with.

His old Friends soon perceived that he did not change by Halves: They who had intrusted, supported, protected, and raised him from nothing, now found him not content barely to forlaze and betray them; for he treated them without the least Injury or Provocation given him, not only as if they were his greatest Enemies, but as if they were the common Enemies of Mankind.

*Scitacet horreres, majoraq; monstra putares.*

How ill soever the World might judge of this his Conduct and Behaviour, he regarded

garded it not : He soon found the Benefit of the Change ; and as for his Reputation in the doing it, that was beneath his Care ; for he now looked upon himself as a Statesman, a Politician, and one that was to act upon Court Maxims.

HE had not, however, been long in the Court-Interest, before an Accident happened that had like to have spoiled all his Projects ; and that was the breaking out of the Popish Plot. It is amazing to consider what a Ferment that Plot raised in the Nation, and what Credit and Influence the Country Party gained by it. The Court was reduced to the lowest Ebb, all Things ran strong against them, and they had scarce a Man who had Courage enough to venture to stand in the Gap to stem the Torrent.

JEFFER'S upon this Occasion was at the greatest Loss to know how to conduct himself : His Skill, his Craft, was never before put to so severe a Tryal : He would gladly have reconciled himself to his old Friends upon any Terms, and some-

sometimes from the Knowledge he had of the Temper of many of them, he was not without Hopes of bringing it about. But then, when he reflected upon his late Behaviour towards them all in general, and his personal ill Treatment of many of them in particular, he despaired of Success, and gave over the Attempt.

FINDING therefore that there was nothing left for him to trust to, or hope for, from his old Friends, he resolved to run all Lengths, and to undergo all Hazards, and, in short, to live and dye in the Service of the Court, and in Support of their Measures.

THE Courtiers had never more Occasion for such Men as he, than at this Time; their Interest was very low, their Credit was quite sunk, and they had no Game to play, but what was very desperate: They knew his Talent well, and as they were continually wallowing in Mire themselves, they knew he would be most useful to them, when they had most dirty Work to engage him in.

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THEY made him, as it were, the Bull-Dog of the Party, to bait and worry all such as were obnoxious to them, and came within their Clutches ; and he acquitted himself so well in his Station, that tho' in an Harangue or two that he made of that Kind to do their Drudgery, he drew upon himself the Indignation and Resentment of the whole Kingdom in general ; yet his Patrons were so well satisfied and pleased with his Performances, that in Requital and Acknowledgment of such remarkable Services, they made him Lord Chief Justice of *England*.

*Criminibus debent bortos, prætoria, mensas,  
Argentum vetus, & stantem extra pocula  
caprum.*

IT may easily be conceived what a Condition this poor Kingdom was in, when the Reigns of Government were in the Hands of a Man so qualify'd, so preferr'd, and so capable of any Mischiefs as he was ; and it was not without Horror, that good Men saw the Lives of *Englishmen*, as it were,

were, at the Nod of so abandoned] a  
Wretch.

THINGS, however, in this Reign, went on pretty smoothly ; he had no Opportunity given him by the then Government, bad as they were, to shew the natural Bent of his Temper. He was forced to lye quiet till the coming in of King James, and then the Cloven-Foot appeared, and he soon shewed himself in his proper Colours.

IN the first Year of that King's Reign, a Rebellion broke out, as well in Scotland, as in *England*, which very much disturbed the Peace of both Kingdoms : It began to spread apace, and would have thrown the Government into unspeakable Convulsions, had it not been for their great Care and Vigilance, and several fortunate and lucky Accidents that happily concurred to put an End to it. This Rebellion being soon quashed, like all other unsuccessful Rebellions, ended in the Ruin of all its Contrivers and Promoters : The Rebels, wherever they fled, or however

ever they scatter'd themselves, were sooner or later, forc'd to surrender to the Mercy of the Court; and nothing now remained, but that the Justice of the Law might take Place against them.

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*Accipe nostro,  
Dira quod exemplum feritas produxerit  
ævo.*

UNFORTUNATE it was for those poor Wretches, that Jefferys was at that Time Chief Justice; his Station gave him the chief Authority over them, and he had all the Power of the Crown added to it, to give the Laws their full Force: But much less Power would have served his Turn, for his Inclinations were strong, his Nature was cruel, and he was a Stranger to every Sort of Mercy but what proceeded only from his Avarice.

CLAD with this Authority, he put it in Execution, in a Manner now pretty well known to all the World: Those that could buy Mercy, and pay the Price of it, had it; but those that could not, were

were forthwith hanged. This Work, however, soon grew tedious to him ; he had not Patience to try so many Hundreds of them in the common and ordinary Manner, and therefore to save his Time and Trouble, he was forced to have Recourse to Stratagem. He hinted to them, that the only Way for them to hope for Mercy, would be to plead Guilty ; that there was full Evidence against them all, and therefore that as many of them as insisted upon their Tryals, should, as fast as they could be convicted, forthwith suffer.

THIS Project had the desired Effect, for the poor deluded Wretches took hold of the Hint, and in Hopes of Mercy, pleaded Guilty by Scores at a Time ; nay, even many of those against whom there was no legal Evidence, yet being conscious of their own Guilt, in Hopes of Mercy, pleaded Guilty likewise ; and yet all these without any Regard had to the Intimation given them, if they had not Money to purchase their Redemption, were in a most insulting and barbarous Manner

ner either hang'd, or sent as Slaves to the  
West-Indies.

*Quid memorem infandas cedes? quid fa-  
cta tyranni*

*Efferas? Dii capiti ipsius generique reser-  
vent.*

IN the Court of King's-Bench, his Partiality and his Cruelty, were every Day more and more remarkable and conspicuous: The Ministry were always in the right, and whoever opposed them was sure to be in the wrong: There was not a Corporation in the Kingdom could stand its Ground against him; he treated all that were brought before him, not as if they were to expect any Justice from him, but as if they were his own private and particular Enemies; and all Mankind he treated with such a haughty and supercilious Air, as was not to be endured,

SUCH a Judge was fit only for the corrupt Times he lived in, such Times as a good Man would dread to see; for at that Time there was scarcely one Man of Honour

Honour in the whole Ministry : The Friends of our old Religion and Laws were every where slighted and discountenanced, and none but the professed Enemies of both were then in Favour.

IN such Times as these it is not to be wondered, that such a Man as Jefferys should please his Patrons, tho' he pleased no Body else ; and it was not long before they gave him signal Marks of their high Approbation of him ; for as a Token of their grateful Acknowledgments of his great Services, they made him a Lord, while yet a Judge ; an Honour that had not been given to any of his Predecessors, except in one or two Instances upon very uncommon Occasions, and to Persons of the highest and most distinguished Merit.

JEFFERY'S was now in the Height of his Power and Grandeur, when a Vacancy happened for the great Seal, and he pitched upon to supply that Vacancy. It was given him with the greatest Affection, and the highest Compliment ; but it was not without some Unwillingness

ness, and a seeming Difficulty, that he was pleased to receive it ; and some say, he had Dexterity enough to oblige the Court to give him a good round Bribe to induce him to accept of it.

*Quales ex humili magna ad fastigia rerum  
Extollit, quoties voluit Fortuna jocari.*

THE Court of Chancery, not without just Cause, had very terrible Apprehensions when they saw this Man sent to preside over them : They had seen and observed enough of his Behaviour while he was Chief Justice, to make them justly dread his coming amongst them ; and it was not long before he answered their Expectations to the full.

WE have now brought him to the Summit of all his Glory, as Lord High Chancellor of *England*, and since in that Station he gave full Scope to all his Passions and Inclinations, it may not be amiss, if not for the Readers Instruction, yet at least, for his Diversion, to be somewhat more

more particular in the Account of his Conduct and Character.

IT hath been often said, and perhaps not without good Grounds, that the Court of Chancery two or three hundred Years ago had no such Authority and Preheminence, as for several Years past it hath constantly laid Claim to, and enjoyed; nay, I think my Lord Chief Justice *Coke* hath somewhere given it as his Opinion, that it was originally no more than the *Officina Justitiae*, the Shop to make out Writs, and other Process for the Use and Service of the common Law-Courts.

BE that as it will, we all know, that at least for these hundred Years last past, it hath had the Superintendency and Controul over all the Courts in the Kingdom; and many Reasons have been given for such prodigious Increase of its Authority, and for the Conveniency and Necessity of it. But if that old Maxim be a just one, that *Boni Judicis est ampliare Jurisdictionem*; that alone will sufficiently account for it.

**JEFFERRYS**, tho' he wanted almost every Qualification necessary to make a good Judge, yet he thoroughly understood that Maxim, and practised it; and carried it, perhaps, further in his Reign, than all his Predecessors put together had done before him: He carried it so far, as to make even the Judges themselves of the Courts of Law, ministerially to obey the common Orders of the Court of Chancery.

WHAT is meant by this, will better appear from the following remarkable Instance which happened in the Court of Common-Pleas, when Sir *Thomas Jones* was Chief Justice there. He was a good Judge, and a grave and learned Man, who wanted no due Affections for the Court, nor yet that Courage and Integrity that is necessary for the impartial Administration of Justice.

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*Omnia, quanquam  
Temporibus diris, tractanda putabat inermi  
Justitiae.*

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**JEFFE-**

*JEFFERTYS* in the Court of Chancery directed, that a feigned Issue should be tried at Law, which was accordingly tried at the Bar of the Court of Common-Pleas; and after a full hearing, there was a Verdict for the Plaintiff, agreeable to the Opinion of the Chief Justice, and the whole Court. The Defendant soon after applied to the Court of Common-Pleas for a new Trial, suggesting that some of the Jury had been tampered with. The Court well remembering the Circumstances of the whole Tryal, and that the Verdict was obtained according to their Direction, and upon the fullest Evidence, and judging that the Suggestion was not sufficiently supported, they looked upon the Motion as trifling, and intended only for Delay, and therefore unanimously refused to grant it. But the Cause being of some Consequence, the Defendant notwithstanding this Rebuff, applies to the Chancellor for the same Thing, suggesting only the very same Reason; and he to shew his Authority, and Contempt of the Proceedings of the Common-Pleas, very roundly ordered a new Tryal, not with-

out many indecent Reflections upon the Conduct of that Court, as if they had not been sufficiently careful in their Distribution of Justice: And tho' that Court had already determined the Matter otherwise, as being a Point peculiarly under their Cognizance, and of which they were the Proper, and undoubtedly the best Judges; yet they were forced to submit, and try it over again.

*Stat contra, stariq; jubet, parere necesse est.*

BUT this new Tryal served only to shew the Petulancy of the Chancellor, and to give the Plaintiff an Opportunity of offering some new additional Evidence, which made his Case ten Times clearer and stronger than it was before.

THE then Master of the Rolls was a Man as remarkable for his good Nature, Integrity, and Sincerity, as the Chancellor was for the Want of all these Virtues; and when two such Judges meet in one Court, it is not to be wondered if they clash and disagree. The Chancellor was

not

not only perpetually reversing the Masters Decrees, and discharging even his common Orders of Course; but he set up some venal Officers of his own, Persons of no Learning, Credit, or Consideration; to contest the Master's Authority, and to affront and insult him in the publick Execution of it. But the Master wanted not Courage to stand his Ground, he was well apprised of his own Authority, was resolved to maintain it, and he did so, and baffled all the Chancellor's Projects.

He behaved himself towards the Council attending that Court, with such an Air of Haughtiness and Insolence, as was insupportable. Those Gentlemen are for the most Part descended of very antient and honourable Families, that are possessed of some of the best Estates in the Kingdom, and are generally educated in the best and politest Manner. Their Profession improves their Education, and teaches them all those Qualifications that render a Man as well a compleat Gentleman, as a Man of true Honour.

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THE Chancellor knew this well, and saw at his own Bar the most shining Part of the whole Body; and tho' he owed all his Education and present Grandeur to the Profession, as being by his Birth, Fortune and Country Improvements, but barely able to call himself a Gentleman; yet thro' a certain insolent Cast in his Nature, he could not forbear treating even the best of them, with the utmost Indecency and Rudeness.

IN that Court there are frequently heard Causes of very great Consequence, wherein Six, Eight, or Ten of the best Council are often retained of a Side. The Client expects that each Council should do somewhat for his Fees; and it is almost impossible for those who come last to avoid repeating some Part of what had been urged by those who had spoke first, tho' perhaps not without the Addition of a great many new, and very material Circumstances of their own; ' yet this to him was troublesome, it was impertinent, he could not bear it, it was all Repetition, and therefore he would not hear it'; and he

he would often upon the Occasion let himself loose into such Sallies of Passion, as rendered him very ridiculous to the whole Audience: Nay, he has sometimes carried it so far, that he has been forced as meanly to beg Pardon, as he had scandalously given the Affront,

How unlike to all this was the Behaviour of a late Chancellor, one of his Predecessors; who when six or seven Council in a Cause of Consequence, had been long and largely heard to what was understood to be a bare Motion of Course; a young Gentleman, the Ornament of the Bar, of his Country, and of the Age, stood up, and said; ' That he was of the same Side, but that so much had been already said, that he had no Robin to add any Thing; that therefore he would not presume to take up his Lordship's Time, by repeating what had been so well urged by the Gentlemen that went before him'. The Chancellor with a Grace and Goodness peculiar to himself, said; ' Sir, pray go on, I sit here to hear every body; you never repeat, nor will you take up

my

‘ my Time, and therefore I shall hear you  
‘ with Pleasure.

*Semper bonus, nomenque tuum, laudesque  
manebunt.*

A Chancellor that could use the Council so roughly, could not be supposed to treat the Suitors of the Court with any great Decency. It was remarkable in him, that he always chose rather to hear himself speak than any body else, and that made him very often run away with the Client's Cause, before he understood what it was; and when that happened to be the Case, it was talking to the Wind, to endeavour to bring him back: Whether he took the Thing right, or whether he took it wrong, it was all one, there was no stopping of him; for he took so much Delight in haranguing, and running Divisions upon the Subject, that he would bear no Contradiction. And when he had spoke as long as he thought fit in a Strain of false Eloquence to clear the Point, it frequently served for no other Purpose, than to convince those that were concerned in

the

the Cause, that he knew nothing at all of the Matter.

—*Torrens dicendi copia multis,  
Et sua mortifera est facundia.*—

AND when the poor injured Suitor, who was unacquainted with the Violence of his Temper, would endeavour with great Modesty and D<sub>e</sub>ference to point out the Chancellor's Mistake, and set him right, instead of doing himself Justice by it, he generally made his Case ten Times worse, for the Chancellor was above Mistakes; it was the Height of Impudence and Insolence in any Man to suppose it; and it was enough to startle even a very resolute Man, if he had any Awe of the Court upon him, to hear the Threat'nings, the Severity, and Extravagancy of the Chancellor upon such Occasions.

How ill qualified soever he might be in other Respects for the high Office he bore, there was, however, one Branch of it that he full well understood, and that was the Value of his own Office, and the several Offices under him that were in

his Disposal. His Heart was so bent upon getting an Estate, that he steered all his Actions to that one Point.

*Prima fere vota & cunctis notissima tem-  
plis*

*Divitiae ut crescant & opes.*

HE not only sold all his inferior Offices, but even judicial Offices, and sold them too in such a Manner, and at so extravagant a Rate, that at length he found it Matter of great Difficulty to get Purchasers to treat with him; and the better to raise and keep up the Price of these several Offices, he was necessarily obliged to enlarge their Perquisites, as well as their Priviledges. This he did with all the Art and Dexterity that his Invention could contrive; and he succeeded so well in it, that some of these Offices he actually sold for full five Times their usual Price; nay to encourage Men to traffic with him, he would even forego the common Impetuosity of his Nature, and endeavour to shew Courtesy and Kindness, tho' he was in Reality a Stranger to both. In short

where

where Money was to be had, there was nothing he would not do to get it, for his Avarice knew no Bounds.

— *Sed nimis congesta pecunia cura*

*Strangulat.*

IT was somewhat extraordinary, that a Man so covetous should be withal so proud: His Pride was of the worst Sort, and made him look very awkward whenever he affected State and Grandeur; for there was such a wrong Cast in his Countenance, that he never looked natural, but when he was transported either with Joy or Fury.

THERE was at that time a Lawyer of great Parts, who had acquired to himself a large Fortune, as well as great Reputation and Honour by his Skill and Eminence in his Profession, and this Man and the Chancellor rivalled each other; they were mortal Enemies, and were looked upon to be the two proudest Men in the Kingdom.

THE other's Talents were certainly far superior to the Chancellor's, as his Pride exerted it self upon quite different Objects : His arose from a Consciousness of his own superior Genius to the rest of Mankind. He never considered Man with Regard to his Dignity or his Fortune, but with Regard only to the Faculties of his Mind ; and therefore it was that he thought no Man his Superior, and would hardly allow any Man to be his Equal. He treated the great Vulgar, and the small, alike, unless with this difference, that the latter were often the Objects of his Generosity, or his Pity ; when the former were only the Objects of his Contempt and Scorn,

BUT the Chancellor's Pride proceeded from his Authority and Power ; he shewed it only to his Inferiors, and they were always sensible of it, because it was always grievous and intollerable to them ; whereas to great Men and Courtiers, no Man fawned and cringed more than he, or was more obsequious,

*Laudare*

~~Si bene ructavit, si rectum minxit amicus~~ *Laudare paratus*

~~Si bene ructavit, si rectum minxit amicus~~

~~bus~~

Patience in a Judge is a Cardinal Virtue, but our Chancellor was a Stranger to Patience, and to the very Appearance of it. This he manifested to all Mankind, by every Instance of his Conduct, from first to last; he suffered his Passions to hurry him away with such ungovern'd Rage and Fury, that whoever stood in his Way, were sure to suffer by him. He was the most arbitrary Man breathing, and so possestive, that he would never be prevailed upon to undo what he had once done, even tho he was convinc'd he was in the wrong.

~~Dira & fædor. omni~~

~~Crimine persona.~~

~~to 100 bluon~~

He once made an Order that a Sollicitor should give an Account before a Master upon Oath, of all the Writings and Papers in the several Causes wherein he had been concerned for his Client. The Sollicitor attended the Master, and ac-

quain-

quainted him that he had already delivered several of the Papers, to his Client, which were not then in his Power, and of which he had kept no Memorandum, nor could he by any Means recollect what they were; That he was ready to make Oath of the Truth of this, and ready likewise, as far as was possible, to pay Obedience to the Order. The Master judging that he was confined by the Order, insisted upon a punctual Obedience to it; and because the Sollicitor could not comply, he made his Report against him. The Sollicitor thereupon applied to the Court, setting forth the Hardships of his Case upon Oath, and offering to go before the Master, and to obey the Order in such Manner, as the Master should certify the Circumstances of his Case would admit of: The Chancellor call'd this trifling with his Order, and a Contempt of it; for which, tho' the Sollicitor was a Man of Reputation and Credit in Business, he was committed a Prisoner to the Fleet.

ABOUT half an Hour afterwards, when the Chancellor was upon other Business, he

he called to the Register, and ordered that the Master should settle in what Manner the Sollicitor should pay Obedience to the Order; upon which the Sollicitor's Council stood up and said, that That was all that he was instructed to ask for his Client; and since the End of his Motion was granted, and since his Client had already offered that, and had always been ready to perform it, he hoped the Order for his Commitment should be discharged. The Chancellor angrily answered; Sir, I make no new Order, I only add to what I have already pronounced. And thus the poor Man was sent to the *Fleet*, for not doing that which the Chancellor himself admitted was impossible to be done.

THE Warden of the *Fleet* in this Man's Chancellorship had a fine Time of it, for he delighted much in Commitments. There was no Age, Rank or Sex could escape him; he committed Ten for every one that any of his Predecessors ever had done, and this he did, not so much to punish for real Crimes, as out of a certain, uncouth and cruel Petulancy of Temper, that

that made him in these Humours inflict his Punishments at Random, without Regard either to Persons or Crimes: For there were Instances of his committing even Council themselves for Errors only in their Judgment, when no Man of Understanding erred other than he.

*Sed quid violentius aure tyranni.*

THERE was but one Way of getting any Favour, or even common Civility from him, and that was by flattering him; and as this was a Method no Man of Honour would stoop to, his Favours, (if he ever bestowed any) were engrossed by Sycophants, and such as could descend low enough to merit them. As a Man of Sence, he was of all Mankind the most subject to Flattery, and the most easily imposed on that Way; and the grossest and most fulsome kind of it, and such as any other Man upon Earth would have understood as the highest and grossest Affront, he would not only bear, but take Pleasure in.

*Nibil*

~~— Nihil est quod credere de se  
Non posse, cum laudatur Diis aqua po-  
testas.~~

THIS strange Inclination in him to be flattered, which probably might be owing to the Narrowness of his Education, made him appear, in the Eye of Men of Taste and Learning, very ridiculous and contemptible.

HIS Flatterers found out that the only Way to get from him those Favours which they knew were not otherwise to be obtained, was to praise him to the World for his great Skill and Abilities in Matters of which he was intirely ignorant: And therefore it was that these Men were generally observed to be laughing in private at his Vanity, while at the same Time they were publickly loading him in Print with Dedications of such a Fustian Kind, as no Mortal but himself would have endured.

I have already observed that our Chancellor came, as it were, out of a

Country School into the Temple to study the Law, and that his Fortune was even too narrow for the common Conversation of the Place: Whatever therefore his Inclinations might have been, he was not able to pursue Studies of a politer Kind; and when afterwards he listed himself into the Service of a Party, Business came in upon him so fast, that he had not Leisure to engage in them.

AND yet he took all Opportunities to perswade the World to believe that he was endued with all those Accomplishments that even Art it self could teach him: And for this Purpose, he would among Persons whose Education lay not that Way, with much Ease, and great Volubility of Speech, solve all difficult and knotty Points in Philosophy, the Mathematicks, and what not; and would particularly delight in pointing out and correcting the Errors of the most eminent Artists of his Time, in their several Professions.

But

BUT as he was in Reality no more than a shallow Pretender to any of those fine Qualifications, when his Solutions came to be repeated at second Hand, and considered by Men of Skill, it served only to expose his Vanity, and to give those Wretches that used to flatter him a further Opportunity by their fulsome Compliments to gain their Ends of him.

He might justly be said to have been a very unfair Combatant, for he would never be brought to enter the Lists with equal Weapons: Tho' he was hugely delighted with Panegyricks from the Press, yet he was a mortal Enemy to the Liberty of it; and whenever he thought he had received an Injury from that Quarter, he would never be prevailed upon to forgive it.

He had indeed, rather the Soul of a Woman than a Man in him; for Revenge was his darling Passion, and he pursued it with great Violence; and as this pointed him out to the World for a Coward, so it drove him upon those brutal

Acts of Cruelty, as will render his Memory infamous to latest Posterity.

A Chancellor thus impatient, thus positive, thus furious, thus abusive, thus cruel, thus covetous, thus arbitrary, thus proud, haughty, impetuous and insolent, and yet withal, thus abject, could not but put Men in Mind of those two great Men that filled that Station before him, so much to their own Honour, and to the Satisfaction of the whole Kingdom.

THE former of these: was not only the Darling of the Bar, and the Darling of his Country, but he was the Darling of Mankind. He had so much Gravity, and yet so much Grace and Sweetness in his Countenance, as at once commanded our Affection and Esteem: But then the Beauties of his Mind were inconceivable, and forced, from every one he had to do with, a Tribute of the most profound Respect and Veneration.

As an additional Lustre to the Beauties of his Mind and Body, he had an Elocu-

eloquence that was wonderfully easy, elegant and graceful: This was a Blessing of Nature that seemed to have been born with him, for he could not help displaying it in every common Occurrence of Life,

HAPPY was the Person that had the Honour to enjoy even the least Share of his common Conversation. There was something in his familiar Discourses so innately melodious, so sublimely edifying, and at the same Time so surprizingly delightful, that if there was any Happiness in this World worth a wise Man's seeking, it would be, to have been always entertained with this great Man's agreeable Company.

If we follow him from his Family to the Bar, there we shall find that never was Rhetorick in the Management of so enchanting a Persuader; if we follow him from thence to the Senate-House, there we shall find that never was Logick in the Management of so convincing a Reasoner; Even Truth it self, since

since the Days of Revelation, never appeared with so much Strength and Vigour, and yet so amiably, as in the easy and unaffected Manner with which he always chose to deliver it.

IT was finely said of him, That his Eloquence might very properly be compared to Lightning; That it was divinely beautiful, and yet powerfully strong; That it gilded and adorned whatsoever it touched upon; but that it beat down every Thing that opposed it.

To make him compleatly the Man he was, there seemed to have been a Combination of Art and Nature: His Learning was as universal as his Temper was benevolent: His Mind seemed to have been a Treasury stored with all that Knowledge natural and acquired, that necessarily makes a Man great and good.

IF we consider him as a private Gentleman, if we consider him as an Advocate, as a Senator, a Privy Councillor, or a Chancellor: He acted in all these

different Parts with so much Ease, and so naturally, that he seemed as if he were born for all of them in general, and for each of them in particular. But then if we consider his particular Qualifications as a Chancellor, we shall find him in every Instance the very Reverse of the Man we are now speaking of.

No Man supported the Dignity of his Office, or became it, better, or had more Respect and Duty paid him in it than he. This he procured not from the Severity, but from the Amiableness of his Nature; and it was the Effect of Love, and not of Fear, that Men paid him Homage. aH

HE was the Mirror of Patience, and therefore a fit Pattern for all Judges that shall come after him; not only the Council, but even the Sollicitors, Suitors, and, in short, every Body that had any Thing to offer, he patiently and favourably heard before he determined; and when he had pronounced his Judgment, he sent all Parties away satisfied, because he sent them away

away convinced that he had done them Justice.

He was the most courteous, the most affable, and the meekest Man alive, and as free from Covetousness as he was from Pride; there was not the least Tincture of either in his whole Composition, and tho' from the great Offices he passed through, he could not avoid to improve his Estate very considerably; yet he did it without Envy, because he did it honestly, nor did he get any Thing, until he had deserved every Thing.

He was never seen angry: That unruely Passion was a Stranger to his Breast; and whenever the Duty of his Office required him to be severe, it was always to Crimes, and not to Persons. He was too great a Lover of Mens Liberties and Properties, to take Delight in Commitments and Imprisonments; that Course he never took, except in Cases where he found an obstinate and determined Defiance, and Insult upon his Authority. His Method rather was to shame Men into a Consciousness

of

of their Errors, by exposing the Deformity and Ugliness of them, and the Offender at the same Time that he saw his Fault pointed to him, saw the Goodness and Tenderness of the Chancellor in the Manner of the Censure: This certainly was the best and most effectual Way to restrain common and ordinary Offences.

BLESSED with these Endowments, it is no Wonder that he passed thro' all the stormy Times he lived in, with such a Calm and Quiet to himself, as if all had been Sun-shine; and however the contending Parties might be quarrelling with each other, even to cutting one anothers Throats, or tearing out each others Bowels, yet all looked upon him as their common Father, and without Distinction, sought for Refuge from him.

**SUCH** a Man was too good to live out the Age of Man amongst us ; so abandoned an Age deserved not such a Man in it. He died as he lived, beloved, esteem'd, admir'd, and his Death universally lamented : But his Name and Memory will be honoured whilst there is a Man left, that has the

H least

least Regard, either for the Laws, the Liberties, the Properties, and the Constitution of this Kingdom, or for any of those private Virtues that grace and adorn human Life.

IN a Word, whoever would propose by his Conduct, in any Part of civil Life to do himself good, to do his Country good, and to do the World good, to gain an universal Applause and Esteem here, and a Name and Honour that will endure for ever, need only keep the Example of this unparalleled Chancellor constantly in his View: Let him but endeavour to be what this great Man was, and he needs no more.

*Nulla dies unquam memori vos eximet aeo.*

ent Ballance against all his other ill Qualities ; it will not be amiss to touch lightly upon them.

As to his Politicks, notwithstanding all the Noise and Pother that he and his Sycophants have made of his Zeal for the Government ; it is plain from his many Tergiversations, that he acted upon no other Principle than that of Interest ; and if he could have found a better Account in the Service of the Republican Party, than in that of the Royal Cause, he would have chosen the former rather than the latter.

It is true indeed, he professed himself a Member of the Established Church of *England* ; but it is as true that he was no more than a bare outward Professor. Nay, it plainly appeared from the whole Tenour of his Behaviour, that if he was any Thing, it was somewhat which was the very Reverse of what he professed ; for he was a constant and steady Persecutor both of the Church and Churchmen ; while Men of any other Religion,

or rather of no Religion at all, for no other Reason than their being so, were oftentimes caressed and cherished by him.

THUS went our Chancellor successful-  
ly on for several Years together in the un-  
interrupted Enjoyment of that unlimited  
Authority, which by the Constitution of  
our Country had been entrusted with him,  
all the while wantonly rioting himself in  
the most extravagant Abuse of it, as well  
to the great Terror, as to the unutterable  
Grief of the whole Kingdom, to and at  
all times before this history even.

BUT at Length a happy Dawn of Deli-  
verance appeared ; his Reign was dis-  
covered to be drawing towards a Period,  
and it was seen and observed with Plea-  
sure. That Ferment that grew so fast,  
and in so uncommon a Manner through-  
out the Kingdom, was in a great Measure  
owing to the many Enormities and gross  
Mismanagements that he had been guilty  
of during the Course of his Administra-  
tion ; and not only brought on his Ruin,  
but occasioned the wonderful Revolution  
that soon after ensued.

*Quae prospera tanti  
Ut rebus letis par sit mensura malorum?*

JEFFERT'S, tho' he was not the only evil Minister complained of, was as deep as any in the Intrigues of the Times, and had been as bad a Minister, as he was a Chancellor; and therefore after the happy Revolution had taken Place, could expect nothing less than to be given up to the publick Resentment. He deserved no Favour, and could hope for no Mercy; Mercy to him would have been Cruelty to the Publick: As conscious therefore of his Guilt he fled; but before he could get out of the Kingdom he was taken, and had like to have been made a Sacrifice to the Fury of the Rabble, before they could get to a Magistrate to secure him for Justice.

He

HE was committed to the Tower, where he died soon after in great Rage and Fury, as well as in great Pain and Agony; and thus he died as miserably as he had lived, angry with every Body, because he had offended every Body, neglected, unfriended, unpitied, and unlamented, and his Memory detested by all Mankind.

never ed of nati alsi gaition fagke bliso  
-tisb eH .momeM ablding eit of qu  
on **PROVIDENCE** that permitted him to acquire so much Wealth and Grandeur in so short a Time; and in so corrupt a Manner, would have been too indulgent to him, if he had permitted the same to continue long in his Name or Family. He left only one Son, and with him ended the Name, the Honour, and the Estate; and this in so short a Time, that some of those very Servants who had lived with the Chancellor when he was hardly worth a Shilling, and lived to see him acquire an Estate of at least twelve Thousand Pound a Year, continued still in the Fami-

Family, till the whole was spent and squandered.

————— *Qui nimios obtabat honores,  
Et nimias poscebat opes, numerosa parabat  
Excelsa turris tabulata, unde altior effet  
Casus, & impulsa praeceps immane ruina.*



F I N I S.

[52]

Das müßt' zw. schonst' sein mit <sup>dem</sup> kleinen  
Lembnupt

2210363 ininde scimus in O —————  
cad: me uerum: rago indistincte scimus: II  
vole: recta: dñe: uoluntate: uirtus: auctorit  
erunt: omni: pessimi: aliqui: O: uia:)

103333

## 21 VIII

rum  
supi

rum  
Tym  
Tym  
Cym